

Proposed Plastic Bag Ban Guidelines

BEDP Study Session
September 28th, 2018



Background:

- On August 6, 2018, City Council directs staff to gather input about a plastic bag ban and return to Council with a final ordinance in October.

CITY OF BURIEN, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 690

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BURIEN, WASHINGTON, ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 8.17 TO THE BURIEN MUNICIPAL CODE REGULATING THE DISTRIBUTION OF CARRYOUT BAGS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature ("Legislature"), in RCW 70.95.010(B)(a), established waste reduction as the first priority for the collection, handling, and management of solid waste; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature, in RCW 70.95.010(4), found that it is "necessary to change manufacturing and purchasing practices and waste generation behaviors to reduce the amount of waste that becomes a governmental responsibility"; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature, in RCW 70.95.010(6)(c), found that it is the responsibility of city governments "to assume primary responsibility for solid waste management and to develop and implement aggressive and effective waste reduction and source separation strategies"; and

WHEREAS, it is the City's desire to conserve resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, waste, litter, and marine pollution, and to protect the public health and welfare, including wildlife, all of which increase the quality of life for the City's residents; and

Single Use Plastic Bags

- Over 500 billion to 1 trillion consumed per year worldwide
 - 100 billion in the US alone
 - Less than 1% are recycled
 - So what happens to the rest ???
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A photograph showing a vast expanse of a beach covered in a dense layer of plastic waste, including bottle caps, fragments of plastic, and other debris. The ocean is visible in the background under a clear sky. The word "Oceans" is written in white text in the bottom left corner of the image.

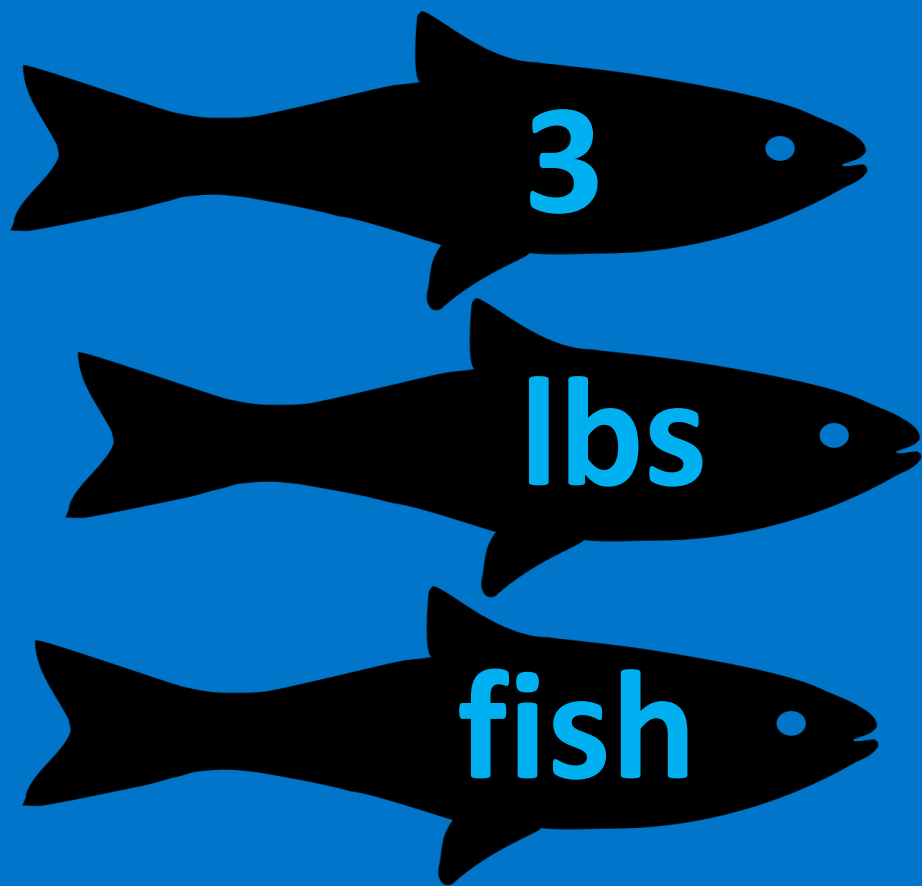
Oceans

Plastics and plastic bags don't decompose



*Instead, they break down into
smaller and smaller bits*

By 2025:



in our oceans

Other problems

Contamination of Compostables



Clogs the recycling lines



Key Features of Proposed Reusable Bag Ordinance

- Adoption Date: October 15th, 2018
- Effective Date: Staff recommends one year from adoption date
(What does BEDP recommend?)

No plastic carry-home bags



www.seattlepi.com/local/article/Plastic-bags-banned-in-Seattle-2412960.php

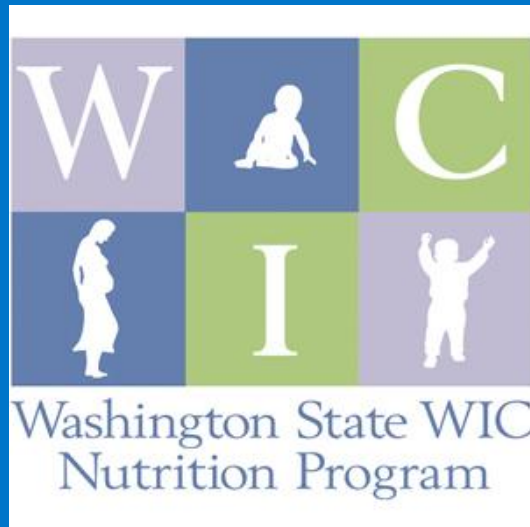
5 cents fee on large paper bags

- Paper bags with one-eighth barrel (882 cubic inches) capacity or larger
- Store **keeps** the 5 cents



EBT/WIC/TANF exempt

- Retailers cannot collect a pass-through charge from anyone with a voucher or electronic benefits card



“damp contamination” exemption

- Damp items that may contaminate may be placed in a plastic bag
 - Examples: teriyaki, stir-fry, pasta with sauce roasted chicken, etc.



Other bag exemptions

- Produce bags
- Paper bags smaller than standard 8lb bag
- Newspaper bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Bags sold in large quantities intended as trash can liners



<http://westseattleblog.com/2012/06/countdown-to-the-seattle-plastic-bag-ban-2-weeks-away/>

Green and Brown-tinted Plastic Bags Banned

- Compostable bags allowed
 - Must be correctly labeled
 - Must be tinted green or brown
- Improves plastic pollution in compost



Questions?

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